

# SAMPLE OUTLINE

## Polygamy Outline

Introduction: In some parts of the country, an uproar is occurring regarding the national ban on polygamy. Currently, three states in the United States allow polygamy. Polygamy is very common in other cultures, but this does not fall under the civil rights we have as Americans.

Thesis: A national ban on polygamy is needed in order to protect the rights of women and children across the country.

- I. History/ Other Cultures
  - A. Other cultures like India, France, and South Africa
    - 1. President has four wives and 20 children
    - 2. Nigerian preacher has 86 wives
  - B. Polygamy reduces promiscuity
  - C. African churches matured, become less popular
    - 1. Increase self-confidence in women
    - 2. Promote literacy and education
  - D. Can be accepted in some social situations but not homosexuality in Africa
  - E. "There are an estimated 38,000 fundamentalist Mormons who practice or believe in polygamy, most living in Utah and other Western states" (#1)
- II. Mormon/FLDS
  - A. Warren Jeffs and the FLDS mission and background
    - 1. "Warren Jeffs, the infamous leader of the Fundamentalist Latter Day Saints sect, is in an Arizona jail awaiting trial on the charges of bigamy and sexual assault, North of the border, Canadian authorities have been trying to nab his co-religionists. In 2009, prosecutors charged Winston Blackmore and James Oler, two leaders of the fundamentalist community in Bountiful, British Columbia, with polygamy." (#4)
    - 2. The FLDS is much different from normal Mormons
  - B. Polygamy's religious views
    - 1. "But polygamy in itself does not violate God's law- or else we could not celebrate David, Solomon, and all the ancient kings, prophets and patriarchs. The fact that this practice is now forbidden to Christian believers reflects the higher standards of holiness prevailing under the new dispensation." (#8)
    - 2. They often attend religious times in their own home because there are so few churches
- III. Effects of it
  - A. Violence among adults and even children
    - 1. Small numbers of men controlling large numbers of women leads to violence
    - 2. Possibly could lead to terrorism
  - B. Men finding power in these types of families - "Polygamy, in this reading, was mainly an aberration of the last 10,000 years caused by agriculture, which allowed the accumulation of huge surpluses, which powerful men translated into prodigious sexual rewards." (#2)

C. Ban was fought

1. Said to violate the First Amendment of the US Constitution
2. Violates basic rights including freedom of religion

IV. Families and Issues Today

A. Brown family

1. Reality TV show led to the attorney general threatening Brown with prosecution if he continued to openly flaunt his polygamous lifestyle
2. The Brown family background now
  - a. Four wives
  - b. Live in four separate houses in a cul de sac
  - c. Now live in Las Vegas
2. "Brown is legally married to one woman and considers his other marriages to be spiritual unions. He believes that his family structure doesn't violate polygamy laws since he has only one marriage license." (#9)
3. They have weekly religious hour one of the wives' homes.

B. Same-Sex Marriage vs. Polygamy

1. "Indeed, monogamy was arguably the basis for the shift from patriarchal authoritarianism to affectionate partnership that eventually made same-sex marriage feasible. The legal benefits of two-person marriage would be almost impossible to replicate with multiple partners." (#3)
2. Same-sex marriage originated from polygamy

Conclusion: A national ban on polygamy is needed in order to protect women and children across the country. Polygamy most often leads to violence and broken relationships. In the United States, there are already so many issues with cruelty among fellow Americans and more would just cause our country to go into distress. Families like the Browns are what motivate these topics along with over powerful men.